

As a customer of a local independent ISP, I believe that BellSouth's petition to stop regulating broadband service would negatively impact the range of choices available to the consumer by effectively converting the ISP market to a duopoly with one phone provider and one cable provider. I am sympathetic to BellSouth's argument that they are hamstrung by regulations that do not apply to the majority broadband provider in their region (cable). However, I feel that the most equitable solution would have been to apply similar regulations to cable and phone networks. This would have given consumers the broadest range of options and a genuinely competitive market for services. Unfortunately, the FCC has declined to apply similar regulations to cable networks. In this case, I feel that to free BellSouth from these regulations would be a case of two wrongs making an even bigger wrong.